

THE RBC EMERGING VISUAL ARTISTS PROGRAM

Arts Commons
Presents

FOUNDATION PARTNER:
 Foundation



DEADLINE: Monday, March 11th 2019

What is the RBC EMERGING VISUAL ARTISTS PROGRAM?

Program Description

Be seen, be heard – be experienced through the RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons. This program is an exceptional opportunity for emerging visual artists in Calgary, Alberta, to develop their artistic practice and showcase their work to the public in exhibition spaces that are visited by more than 600,000 people annually.

Through: one-on-one mentorship opportunities, professional development sessions, networking and social events and exhibition opportunities, emerging visual artists who have been chosen to showcase in Ledge Gallery, Lightbox Studio, and Window Galleries will be provided with the resources to enter into the next phase of their career.

Becoming a successful artist is about more than innate ability; it is a purposeful combination of opportunity, meaningful hard work, and mentorship, the **RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons** helps bridge the gap between emerging too established.

Emerging artists who have been selected for the Ledge Gallery, Lightbox Studio, and Window Galleries will be provided with:

- Four (4) professional development sessions (including financial planning, grant writing, how to improve artist statements and bios, networking, etc.).
- One-on-one mentorship with Arts Commons Visual and Media Arts Associate.
- Group mentorship sessions with established artists and curators.
- Two (2) panel discussion events that connect emerging artists with local galleries and arts professionals.
- Access to a private Facebook group for sharing resources, discussion, and networking.
- CARFAC standard artist fee for your exhibition.

Who is this opportunity for?

The RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons focuses on supporting visual emerging artists across all art forms who generally:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 35.
- Are in the early stages of their career, in their art form, usually within the first few years.
- Are demonstrably committed to devoting more time to their artistic activity.
- Are involved in their creative community.
- Have not yet been showcased outside their primary country of residence.
- Devote a minimum of 24 hours per week to their art.
- Make a financial commitment to their practice and seek their primary income from their artistic work.
- Have little presentation or publication history.
- Are enrolled in, or have recently graduated from, a related degree/diploma program.
- Self-identify as emerging.

Where does this opportunity take place?

THE RBC EMERGING VISUAL ARTISTS PROGRAM at Arts Commons is currently seeking submissions for the following exhibition spaces in Arts Commons for the 2019-2020 season (September 2019 to August 2020). If your proposal is selected you will receive a CARFAC standard artist fee for your exhibitions and the chance to participate in mentorship opportunities and professional development sessions at no cost.



LEDGE GALLERY: 2019-2020 Programming

(1-3 month in duration)

This unique space is located in the +15 walkway system and overlooks Centre Court from the second floor of the building. The gallery has windows on two sides, a cement floor, and track lighting.

The LEDGE GALLERY is most conducive to sculpture, installation, and artist-in-residence style projects. Please note that the work is viewed from outside of the windows looking in unless the artist is present (performative piece). Exhibitions, projects, and residences in this location will run from one to three month intervals depending on the nature of the proposal. CARFAC standard artist fees are paid for this exhibition space.



WINDOW GALLERIES: 2019-2020 Programming

(1-3 months in duration)

These seven window spaces are located across from the Max Bell Theatre. Four of the windows are conducive to sculptural/installation work, three of the windows are more suited to 2D artwork (drawing, painting, photography etc.). Each window is painted white; all have varied measurements, and some are equipped with lighting and power sources. Exhibitions will run in three month intervals. Artist honorariums are paid for the Window Galleries. The CARFAC standard artist fees are paid for this exhibition space.



LIGHTBOX STUDIO: 2019-2020 Programming

(2 months in duration)

Lightbox Studio is a 17'x9' site specifically for artists, designers, writers, and cultural producers to exhibit works in progress, ideas that are in the middle stages of development or a place to experiment with visual culture. These works in progress take form through an artist in residency format where the space is provided to be used as a studio and exhibition space. This work is often in process and provides the artist opportunities to expand upon their research and development in and generates dialogue between artists and audiences about the work. Artist honorariums are paid for the Lightbox Studio. Please note that all artist fees and honorariums are contingent on current levels of funding.

RBC FOUNDATION STATEMENT:

Supporting the arts is a long-standing priority of RBC. We recognize the important role they play in building vibrant communities and strong economies. We also recognize the struggle many artists go through to gain the recognition they need to become successful in their practice. The RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program helps artists bridge the gap from emerging to established, and supports organizations that provide the best opportunities to advance artists' careers.

ARTS COMMONS STATEMENT:

Supporting emerging artists in Calgary, Alberta through the **RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons** is an investment in our collective future and an opportunity to contribute to a growing cultural economy. Our mission at Arts Commons is "to bring the arts to life" which is why for the past 26 years Arts Commons has created space to support local emerging visual artists in our performing arts facility. Since 2006 Arts Commons has been growing our investment in Calgary's visual arts community. Today we curate the Lightbox Studio, the Ledge Gallery, the Window galleries and facilitate community programming in our eight +15 Galleries. Since 1992, over 1056 artist exhibitions have been supported at Arts Commons. The nature of our building artist are able to engage with our substantial audience of over 600,000 per year at Arts Commons.

Arts Commons is recognized for offering emerging artists with a uniquely supported experience that springboards them into the next phase of their creative career with new skills, new tools and a network of supportive peers. Our exhibitions and special projects enhance our patrons' experience at Arts Commons while also promoting critical dialogue within the greater community. We strive to foster an inclusive community where emerging artists are empowered to engage and take risks. By doing so we are creating a meaningful experience that creates connection and collaborative relationships between artists and the community.